

THE SENTINEL

AMERICA'S LARGEST ANGLO-JEWISH WEEKLY—DEVOTED TO UNITY IN JEWISH LIFE

Gerald L. K. Smith Plots Chicago Riots

When Is The Justice Department Going To Act?

By J. I. FISHBEIN



The SENTINEL for some time has been warning against the traitorous activities of America's number one pro-Nazi. It has demanded that he be put in jail where he properly belongs.

We raised this demand last July following the Republican National convention and the disgraceful Stevens Hotel episode. It will be remembered that after having been ostensibly barred from holding his scheduled meeting, Smith, in typical style, stormed into the Grand Ballroom, and proceeded to tirade against the Jews, the war effort and the United Nations. This act of forcing entrance was clearly a violation of civil authority. Yet nothing was done.

Soon afterwards this was followed by the convention of his so-called "America First" party, resembling the Nuremberg Congresses in every way. During these discussions, a proposal was made to "emasculate all American Jews."

The excuse given by the police for failing to act upon our demand has been that even American fascists have the right to freedom of speech, press, and assembly. The argument advanced is that denying Smith these privileges would set a dangerous precedent.

This ridiculous excuse can no longer be valid! Smith has shown his hand! We now have in our possession a confidential letter mailed by Smith to a handful of his followers in the

myself when we returned to our hotel . . .

" . . . Spokesmen for our cause have talked directly with Mr. Fishbein and have been notified that they were going to do everything in their power to prevent any hotel or any building management from renting an auditorium or hall to us. These foolish Jews . . . have resolved that I shall never be allowed to speak in Chicago again . . . "

Fully realizing that the patriotic hotel and public building managers of Chicago are determined to prevent his racial and religious poison from infecting the free air of our great city, Smith bluntly declares that he intends to resort to Nazi beer-hall tactics. " . . . Let me assure you," he writes, "that I am going to speak in Chicago soon, or be killed in the attempt . . . "

Mimicking "his Fuehrer," and in fear of his own cohorts, he cries: " . . . May I say that if you attempt to play any tricks upon me by pretending to help me, you will caught at it because everyone who is called on to do a special confidential duty, will be thoroughly investigated in advance . . . "

What help is needed? (F.B.I. please take notice). " . . . In advance of the meeting I will need a committee of 100 men and women who are not afraid of anything and who would meet with me in order to plan the details of the coming rally. Are you willing to be one of

tion that he has anything remotely in common with their self sacrificing patriotism is a flagrant betrayal of their trust. He is doing Hitler's work! He has as much interest in freedom of speech, press and assembly as Hitler.

We publicly warn the Department of Justice and the local authorities against a repetition of the kind of disorders that have occurred in Detroit, Philadelphia and elsewhere. The Department of Justice must be roused into action. We intend to continue our announced policy of bringing before the bar of public opinion any public building which gives aid or comfort to this un-American enemy of decency.

We intend to make it impossible for Smith or any of his ilk to meet in a public meeting place anywhere in Chicago. Let them spew their Nazi filth in sewers, in dungeons, in underground basements—not where decent people gather. We intend to press for adequate national legislation which will make organized anti-Semitism of this kind a crime against the State, punishable by imprisonment. We intend to militantly battle against the false conception advanced by some well-meaning people that the Constitution was ever intended to protect fascist traitors and enemies of this Republic. We intend to drive Gerald L. K. Smith and all his "hatelers" out of our city into a common jail where they properly belong.

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This ridiculous excuse can no longer be valid! Smith has shewn his hand! We now have in our possession a confidential letter mailed by Smith to a handful of his followers in the Chicago area. This letter is nothing more or less than an open incitement to force and violence.

Having studied "Mein Kampf" well, he begins in perfect Hitler style by blaming the other fellow for his own crimes. Hitler's excuse for invading Czechoslovakia was that the Sudeten Germans—not the Czechs—were being persecuted. Similarly Smith begins by declaring: "... You perhaps know that a reign of terror has been organized by certain citizens of Chicago, mostly Jews. The Chicago Sentinel, which advertises itself as the largest American language Jewish periodical in America, has assumed the attitude that the Nationalists must not be permitted to hold meetings in Chicago. Mr. Fishbein, who runs this magazine has been appealing to the worst elements among his subscribers ..."

Whining like a cornered rat, this "Little Hitler" proceeds to cry: "... The last time I spoke in Chicago, certain Jews, inspired by The Sentinel and other like-minded Jewish groups, did everything they could to break up my meeting. They intimidated the management of the building. They gathered in large numbers on the street, so much so that it was necessary to call out a special squad of police to guarantee the safety of Mrs. Smith and

resort to Nazi beer-hall tactics. " ... Let me assure you," he writes, "that I am going to speak in Chicago soon, or be killed in the attempt ..."

Mimicking "his Fuehrer," and in fear of his own cohorts, he cries: "... May I say that if you attempt to play any tricks upon me by pretending to help me, you will be caught at it because everyone who is called on to do a special confidential duty, will be thoroughly investigated in advance ..."

What help is needed? (F.B.I. please take notice). "... In advance of the meeting I will need a committee of 100 men and women who are not afraid of anything and who would meet with me in order to plan the details of the coming rally. Are you willing to be one of these individuals with the understanding that you are not afraid of work or excitement, and cannot be intimidated ... This committee will be called on to do many different things* ..."

We submit that the issue involved here is not one of freedom of speech. It is an open call for insurrection. It is a threat to the peace and order of our community. It is a clumsy attempt to organize an American Storm Troop brigade. Thus Der Fuehrer Smith hopes to carry out his fascist designs despite the expressed desire of Chicago citizenry who will have no truck with his Nazi inspired ideology.

The record in Detroit and every other area where Smith has been spreading his doctrines of hate, shows clearly that race riots and public disorders invariably follow. It is not freedom of speech that he is interested in. Like his Nazi henchmen everywhere, he is misusing the privileges and guarantees of American democracy to try to destroy us from within. The time is long past when we should permit this stale Hitler trick to work. Millions of American boys—including more than a half million American Jews—are at this moment fighting and dying to preserve our constitution and Bill of Rights. Smith's shoddy insinua-

to this un-American enemy of decency.

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In this task we shall have the support of the whole American people. More and more they recognize that our fight is their fight. We call upon the great patriotic labor movement of Chicago to mobilize their organized workers to prevent a recurrence of the disastrous Detroit and Philadelphia riots. The Negro people, too, are directly concerned. We ask their support. We urge the American Legion, Church Federations and civic groups of every kind to reinforce our demands. We solicit expressions of support from Mayor Kelly and the City Council, reiterating their determination to use all police facilities to keep our city free from the storm troop tactics that Smith proposes to unleash.

We strongly urge that every individual and organization write or wire Attorney General Biddle, demanding that Gerald L. K. Smith be apprehended, at once, indicted for plotting incitements to riot, and put safely away for the duration.

Every minute counts. Let us not be too late with too little. The urgency is most pressing. For the sake of our loved ones, our community and our country—demand action today!

* (Italic type and emphasis ours).

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